(iv) Discussion papers for enhancement of level of economic engagement with Bangladesh, Pakistan, BIMSTEC and ASEAN would be prepared.

Foreign trade under FTAs

†250. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign trade with serveral other countries of the world is done on the basis of Free Trade Agreements;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with which foreign trade of India is going on till date under Free Trade Agreements; and

(c) the value of export and import in terms of money during the year 2004-05 and during first three months of 2005-06 separately with each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India had entered into a free Trade Agreement only with Sri Lanka *w.e.f.* 28th December, 1998.

(c) In respect of trade with Sri Lanka for the year 2004-05, the total export from India to Sri Lanka was amounting to Rs. 6082.60 crore, whereas import from Sri Lanka during this period was to the tune of Rs. 1636.65 crore. Provisional trade data for April and May, 2005 stood at exports worth Rs. 979.05 crore to Sri Lanka and imports worth Rs. 335.20 crore from Sri Lanka (Source Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) Kolkata).

Joint Business Council between India and Pakistan

251. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Pakistan endorsd India's proposal for setting up of a Joint Business Council for greater economic cooperation between the two countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.